



Enhancement Activities

Enhancements activities refer to actions that provide resource benefits beyond the level prescribed by NRCS Conservation Practice Standards. Once implemented Enhancement Activities should result in an observable or measurable improvement to the condition of one or more of the soil, water, air, plant or animal resources, or provide for more efficient resource utilization and/or energy conservation.

Enhancement Activity Benefits

Enhancement activities associated with Habitat Management can result in the following benefits to the producer and the environment:

- Increased hunting opportunities
- Increased population of beneficial animals
- Increased wildlife viewing opportunities

CSP Payments

You can earn payments by improving the quality of the wildlife habitat on your farm through a number of enhancement activities including:

- Manage crop residue by leaving grain crop stubble untilled and ungrazed (>75% cover) until March 1st of the following year. (Cotton and soybeans eligible if cover crop is planted.)

- Maintain and manage riparian forest buffer adjacent to cropland, pastureland and/or hayland and add trees and shrubs that are beneficial to wildlife.
- Defer grazing for 60 consecutive days between April 1 and August 15 to provide vital nesting habitat for declining species.
- Inter-seed and maintain legume and/or forb mixture by over-seeding or drilling into existing sod on up to 20% of pastureland / hayland (min. 1 ac. - max. 10 ac./field). Use exclusion required to dedicate area for wildlife use. Must be managed for herbaceous cover with rotational light strip disking enhancement.
- Manage early successional habitat on pastureland/hayland, idle fields, and/or grassed buffers by light strip disking on a 3 year rotation (the rotation cycle will be repeated throughout the life of the contract).
- Establish, manage and maintain transition zones around cropland, pastureland and/or hayland such as habitat corridors and field borders that are a minimum of 30 feet wide.
- Annually leave a minimum of 1/4 acres to a maximum of 5% of grain crop unharvested adjacent to adequate wildlife habitat until March 1st of the following year for wildlife food.
- Improving your Wildlife Biodiversity Index score over 0.5. The habitat index rates the availability and quality of food, cover/shelter, water, and space for fish or wildlife.

NRCS will help you assess the habitat needs on your property and must approve the design of the selected practices prior to payment.

CSP Enhancements earnings are subject to payment caps. Your actual payment will depend on your CSP Tier level and the number of acres enrolled.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment.

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

Client's Acknowledgement Statement:

I have elected to use the following Habitat Management activities and understand the requirement of the selected activities (Check all that apply):

- ☐ Manage crop residue by leaving grain crop stubble untilled and ungrazed (>75% cover) until March 1st of the following year. (Cotton and soybeans eligible if cover crop is planted.)
- ☐ Maintain and manage riparian forest buffer adjacent to cropland, pastureland and/or hayland and add trees and shrubs that are beneficial to wildlife.
- ☐ Defer grazing for 60 consecutive days between April 1 and August 15
- ☐ Inter-seed and maintain legume and/or forb mixture by over-seeding or drilling into existing sod on up to 20% of pastureland / hayland (min. 1 ac. - max. 10 ac./field). Use exclusion required to dedicate area for wildlife use. Must be managed for herbaceous cover with rotational light strip disking enhancement.
- ☐ Manage early successional habitat on pastureland/hayland, idle fields, and/or grassed buffers by light strip disking on a 3 year rotation (the rotation cycle will be repeated throughout the life of the contract).
- ☐ Establish, manage and maintain transition zones around cropland, pastureland and/or hayland such as habitat corridors and field borders that are a minimum of 30 feet wide.
- ☐ Annually leave a minimum of 1/4 acres to a maximum of 5% of grain crop unharvested until March 1st of the following year for wildlife food.
- ☐ Improving my Wildlife Biodiversity Index score over 0.5

I agree that the following information will be provided to NRCS before this enhancement activity can be certified as applied:

- Written documentation of the wildlife habitat improvements installed (use attached worksheets or equivalent).
- Copies of dated receipts for material or services purchased.

I understand that CSP Enhancements earnings are subject to payment caps and that my actual payments will depend on my CSP Tier level and the number of acres enrolled.

I understand that it is my responsibility to obtain all necessary permits and to comply with all ordinances and laws pertaining to the application of these activities.

Accepted by /s/ _____

Date: _____

USDA Nondiscrimination Statement

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Certification by NRCS:

I have completed a review of the information provided by the client and certify this activity has been applied.

[illegible]

Name: _____

Job Sheet EHM01 – Manage crop residue by leaving grain crop stubble untilled and ungrazed (>75% cover) until March 1st of the following year.

Payment = \$5.00/acre/year for using a high residue management system where corn, sorghum, and 12 inch tall wheat/small grain stubble fields are left untilled and ungrazed from harvest to March 1st of the following year. Practice applies to cotton and soybeans if a no-till legume cover crop is used. Practice payment only applies to those acres where crop residue has not been manipulated or where cover crop is planted.

The intent of this enhancement is to provide winter food and limited cover for a wide array of wildlife species that rely on waste grain located within stubble/residue for food.

This enhancement requires that corn, milo, and small grain stubble cannot be mowed, hayed, grazed, tilled or otherwise manipulated between harvest and March 1st of the following year. In addition, the small grain stubble must average a minimum height of 12 inches and the corn and sorghum must have been harvested in a conventional manner (no silage).

Documentation Required: Use this or similar table to document where this practice is to be done. Attach a plan map showing the location of high residue fields.

Management Units	Crop Grown	System Acres	Year
1,4,7 <i>Example</i>	Cotton/soybean rotation with crop cover	482	2006

High Residue Management System Certification

I certify that I have left all crop residues undisturbed and not manipulated stubble between harvest and March 1st of the following year on the fields listed in the table above. All listed fields which were planted to cotton or soybeans were no-till planted to a legume cover crop after harvest.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Name:

Job Sheet EHM02 – Maintain and manage riparian forest buffer adjacent to cropland, pastureland and/or hayland and add trees and shrubs that are beneficial to wildlife.

Payment = \$45.00/acre/year on pastureland/hayland and \$60.00/acre/year on cropland.

Practice payment applies to buffer area only.

Payment applies only to those eligible areas that will be annually maintained and enhanced through management activities as riparian forest buffers.

The intent of this enhancement is to provide shade to lower water temperature; provide habitat for wildlife; and reduce excess amounts of sediment, organic material, nutrients and pesticides in surface runoff entering aquatic habitats.

Eligible areas for riparian forest buffers are defined as an area of trees and/or shrubs located adjacent to and up-gradient from water bodies, such as permanent or intermittent streams, lakes, ponds, or wetlands. Riparian forest buffers begin at the normal water line, or at the upper edge of the active streambank (if incised), or shore, and extend a minimum distance of 35 feet, measured horizontally on a line perpendicular to the watercourse or water body. The buffers will consist of predominately native trees and shrubs. An herbaceous zone, minimum of 20 feet, may be included at the outside edge of the buffer.

This enhancement requires that the riparian forest buffers be established, annually managed to improve overall wildlife habitat values, and maintained by protecting the designated areas from prohibited practices.

Establishment: Dominant vegetation will consist of existing, naturally regenerated, and/or planted trees and shrubs that according to the soil survey are suited to the site **and** the intended purposes. Natural succession will usually regenerate desirable trees and shrubs in most areas. A seed source adjacent to the site must be present when using natural regeneration to establish a buffer. Also when using natural regeneration, field checks should be conducted early - mid growing season during the first year to be sure suitable plant species for targeted wildlife are present and growing well. If planting is necessary, plants that provide wildlife food and cover shall be used. Only plants recommended in NRCS Job Sheet MS-ECS-391-01 (JS/SS) will be allowed for establishment.

Buffer width = Zone 1 + Zone 2 + Zone 3 (when applicable). Riparian forest buffers must be a minimum of 35 feet wide (Zones 1 and 2 combined.). Wide widths are preferred. They are more effective for the listed purposes and more feasible to manage. Additional width is important when designing a riparian forest buffer for wildlife. However, cost-share widths are limited to 300 feet maximum. **A riparian forest buffer established for wildlife purposes cannot exceed in size 50% of an eligible field.**

Management: These areas will be operated or managed for according to guidance provided in NRCS Job Sheet MS-ECS-391-01 (JS/SS). **Livestock exclusion is required.** If recommended by NRCS wildlife biologist, herbicides (spot spraying) may be used to reduce competition with noxious or invasive species. These areas cannot be disked, burned, or treated with herbicides during the nesting period from April 1 to August 15.

Maintenance: These areas will be maintained according to guidance provided in NRCS Job Sheet MS-ECS-391-01 (JS/SS).

Name:

Job Sheet EHM02 – Maintain and manage riparian forest buffer adjacent to cropland, pastureland and/or hayland and add trees and shrubs that are beneficial to wildlife.

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Documentation Required: Use the following Table for documentation of riparian forest buffer areas, plant species composition and the application of management/maintenance activities applied to these areas. Attach a plan map showing the location of the buffers. An example is provided to assist you.

[illegible]

Management / Maintenance / Enhancement of Riparian Forest Buffers Certification

I certify that the designated areas listed in the table above are maintained to meet minimum plant species requirements and the selected management activities as explained in the enhancement narrative have been applied.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____

Job Sheet EHM11 – Defer grazing for 60 consecutive days between April 1 and August 15.

Payment = \$13.00/acre/year for 60 day grazing deferment. Practice payment applies to deferred acres only.

The intent of this enhancement is to provide adequate residual cover to serve as nesting areas for targeted grassland birds. Gamebirds such as bobwhite quail require a minimum of 45 days to hatch off a brood.

Eligible areas for grazing deferment are defined as established grass pasture which is within a grazing cell larger than 40 acres. Deferment areas must be a minimum of 2 acres in size to be eligible for payment. Deferment areas cannot exceed 20% of a grazing cell and cannot exceed a maximum of 20 acres within any one grazing cell. Livestock exclusion is required for a 60 consecutive day period within the primary nesting season of April 1st through August 15th. Temporary fencing is allowed to enforce use exclusion. During this 60 day period mowing and hay cutting are prohibited. These areas cannot be disked, burned or treated with herbicides during the deferment period. For best results, the management should be done on a staggered basis (e.g., applied to a different area each year). This enhancement cannot be used in conjunction with any other grazing management enhancement which specifies a contradicting rotation sequence.

Documentation Required: Use this or similar table to document where this practice is to be done. Attach a plan map showing areas where grazing is deferred.

Management Units	Total Pasture Acres	Deferred Acres	Year
2,7,9 <i>Example</i>	200	31	2006

Annual Grazing Deferment Certification

I certify that I have deferred grazing for more than 60 consecutive days within the primary nesting season on the areas listed in the table above.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Name: _____

Job Sheet EHM16 – Inter-seed and maintain legume and/or forb mixture by over-seeding or drilling into existing sod on up to 20% of pastureland / hayland (min. 1 ac. - max. 10 ac./field). Use exclusion required to dedicate area for wildlife use. Must be managed for herbaceous cover with rotational light strip disking enhancement.

Payment = \$45.00 for each acre of legumes inter-seeded into existing grass stands to provide or maintain a legume component for food and improved plant diversity for wildlife. Practice payment applies only interseeded acres dedicated to wildlife usage.

The intent of this enhancement is to provide brood-rearing, feeding/pollinating, loafing, and winter cover for most wildlife, including insects, songbirds, and gamebirds, in an area where this habitat type is limiting.

This enhancement is allowed for pastures and haylands of introduced grasses or native warm season grasses.

This enhancement requires inter-seeding and maintaining a legume and/or forb mixture by over-seeding or drilling into existing sod on up to 20% of pastureland / hayland (min. 1 ac. - max. 10 ac./field). Use exclusion is required to dedicate the enhanced area for wildlife use. Therefore the area must be protected from annual haying, mowing, or grazing. Management will include periodic rotational strip disking or interseeding of desired legumes and/or forbs since these dedicated areas must remain in a diverse herbaceous cover. The mixture of grasses with a legume/forb component will provide wildlife food and improve plant diversity for wildlife. A minimum of two legumes or one legume w/one forb species are required to be established under this enhancement.

Establishment: Eligible species, seeding rates and seeding dates for approved legumes are as follows:

Species 1/	Minimum Units	Planting
	Per Acre 2/	Dates
Ladino and White Dutch Clover	3 Lbs.	Sep-Oct 15
Perennial Red Clover	8-12 Lbs.	Sep-Oct 15
Arrowleaf Clover	10-15 Lbs. 3/	Sep-Oct 15
Crimson Clover	20 Lbs.	Sep-Oct 15
Hairy or Wooly Pod Vetch	30 Lbs.	Sep-Oct
Wild Winter Peas (Rough Peas)	30 Lbs.	Sep-Oct
Partridge Pea	6 Lbs.	Feb-May 15
Lespedeza, Kobe	15-30 Lbs.	Mar-Apr
Joint Vetch	20 Lbs.	Mar-June
Beggarweed	10-15 Lbs.	Apr-May
Illinois Bundleflower	9 Lbs.	Apr-May

1/ Inoculate legumes with the appropriate inoculate for the species.

2/ Use 60% of recommended rate when planting a mixture of 2-3 species.

Use 30% of recommended rate when planting a mixture of 4 or more species.

Where seeding ranges are given, use the low seeding rate when drilled. Also, a small reduction in general agricultural seeding rates may be desirable for wildlife use.

3/ Seed should be scarified.

Name: _____

Job Sheet EHM16 – Inter-seed and maintain legume and/or forb mixture by over-seeding or drilling into existing sod on up to 20% of pastureland / hayland (min. 1 ac. - max. 10 ac./field). Use exclusion required to dedicate area for wildlife use. Must be managed for herbaceous cover with rotational light strip disking enhancement.

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Planting is restricted to over-seeding or directly seeding into existing sod. Dense sod must be lightly disked, burned, grazed, etc. to facilitate planting. Lime and fertilizer application will be required if needed based on a current soil test to facilitate legume establishment and persistence in the stand. A soil test is considered valid for three years for this enhancement.

Documentation Required: Use the following table for documentation and attach a plan map showing the location of the management units which were inter-seeded. An example is provided to assist you.

Management Units	Species Planted	Land-use and Existing Species Present	Acres Treated	Year
Field 9 <i>Example</i>	Ladino Clover	Pasture (Introduced species)	25	2006

LEGUME INTERSEEDING FOR WILDLIFE

I certify that I have inter-seeded legume(s) and/or forbs into existing grassland as explained in the narrative above and excluded livestock from these areas.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Name:

Job Sheet EHM17 – Manage early successional habitat on pastureland/hayland, idle fields, and/or grassed buffers by light strip disking on a 3 year rotation (the rotation cycle will be repeated throughout the life of the contract).

Payment = \$15.00/acre/year to carry out light strip disking in a rotational, “patchwork” pattern. Payment applies to all acres within the field(s) where a 3 year rotational light strip disking (1/3 of the field will be disked each year) has been carried out. Payment applies only to the acres actually light strip disked during that year.

The intent of this enhancement is to set back vegetative succession, remove built up thatch, and germinate native forbs and legumes in the seed bank that are responsive to scarification and benefit grassland birds, pollinator insects, and other wildlife species.

Light strip disking is an eligible enhancement on:

- a. Pasture and hay land fields with introduced grasses, i.e. bahia, bermudagrass, etc. **and/or** native warm season grasses, i.e. big bluestem, little bluestem, switchgrass,
- b. Low management “old fields” with grasses such as broomsedge bluestem and various broadleaf herbaceous plants.
- c. Native warm season grass field borders
- d. Native warm season grass filter strips.

Fields will be protected from soil erosion. Any existing or developing plum thickets or blackberry clumps, up to 10 percent of the field, may be left untreated in shrub cover.

This enhancement requires that approved fields, field borders or filter strips will be light strip disked on a 3-year rotational basis, repeated throughout the contract period. On the basis of the contract, this enhancement will be performed annually. Contracts planned for this enhancement are restricted to disking up to one third of the field each year of the rotation in order to retain some non-disturbed grass habitat.

SPECIFICATIONS:

- Specifications for this practice shall be prepared for each site and recorded using approved specifications sheets, job sheets, narrative statements in the conservation plan, or other documentation.
- The NRCS job sheet MS-ECS-645-09(JS/SS) describes the methodology for planning a 3 year rotational light strip disking. Additional guidance for this enhancement can be obtained from the job sheet MS-ECS-645-11(JS).

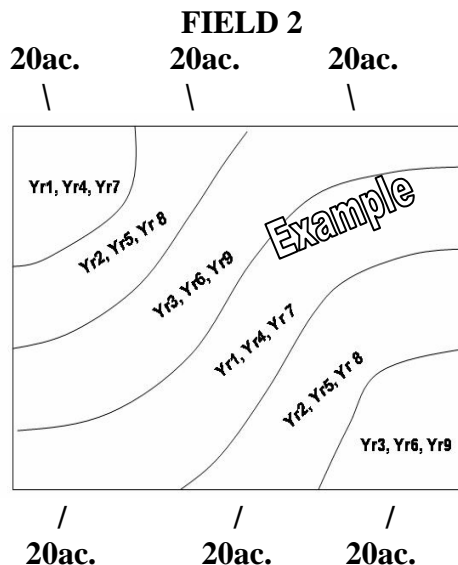
Name: _____

Job Sheet EHM17 – Manage early successional habitat on pastureland/hayland, idle fields, and/or grassed buffers by light strip disking on a 3 year rotation (the rotation cycle will be repeated throughout the life of the contract). Manage vegetative succession for upland wildlife habitat by light strip disking

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Documentation Required: Use the following (or a similar) table to document where this practice is to be done. Attach a plan map showing the rotation scheme.

EXAMPLE PLAN MAP



Management Units	Area to be managed with light rotational disking	System Acres	Year
1,2,3	All of field 2 and 50 foot edge around fields 1 and 3	65	2006

Rotational Light Disking of Fallow Fields or Pasture Certification

I certify that I have used rotational disking on fallow fields and/or pastures listed in the table above.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Name: _____

Job Sheet EHM31 – Establish, manage and maintain transition zones around cropland, pastureland and/or hayland such as habitat corridors and field borders for wildlife that are a minimum of 30 feet wide.

Payment = \$45.00/acre/year on pastureland/hayland and \$60.00/acre/year on cropland. Practice payment applies to buffer area only.

The intent of this enhancement is to provide habitat connectivity through corridors/transition zones that also will provide nesting, brood-rearing, feeding, pollinating, loafing, and winter cover for most wildlife, including insects, songbirds, and gamebirds, in an area where this habitat type is limiting. Linking habitats fragmented by croplands, grazing lands, forest lands, and farmsteads or urban development with woody corridors/transition zones may greatly increase use of an area by wildlife. Corridors/transition zones planned to benefit wildlife should be viewed from a landscape perspective, including the pattern of land use patches, existing corridors, and the dominant cover type. Food, cover and water must be distributed on the landscape in a manner that provides reasonable access.

Eligible areas for corridors/transition zones are defined as strips of perennial vegetation established at the edge or around the perimeter of cropland, pasture and hayland fields and/or established within the field to connect buffer practices to one another. Corridors/transition zones can also be located: between two crop, pasture and/or hayland fields; between cropland and existing forests, grazing lands, haylands, wetlands, ponds, or streams; and along the outside edges of conservation practices, such as filter strips, riparian forest buffers, existing field borders, and grassed waterways. These areas will consist of primarily native shrubs and/or trees in combination with herbaceous vegetation. Fields must be a minimum of 10 acres in size to be eligible for payment. Corridors/transition zones cannot exceed 25% in size of any eligible field.

This enhancement requires that the corridors/transitional zones be established, annually managed to improve overall wildlife habitat values, and maintained by protecting the designated areas from prohibited practices.

Establishment: These areas must be a minimum of 30 feet wide, and buffer/transition areas must be greater $\geq 25\%$ of the total field perimeter with no segment $< 660'$. Natural succession will usually regenerate desirable trees, shrubs, grasses, legumes, and forbs in most areas. When using natural regeneration, field checks should be conducted early - mid growing season during the first year to be sure suitable plant species for targeted wildlife are present and growing well. Woody corridors/transition zones should not have to be planted unless: erosion is a problem; the cropland has no native seed bank for desired plant species due to heavy herbicide usage; or a specific combination of plant species is desired (such as combinations of native and introduced shrubs with native warm season grasses and legumes). If planting is necessary, plants that provide wildlife food and cover shall be used. Native species should be used when feasible. Only plants recommended in NRCS Job Sheet MS-ECS-645-13(JS/SS) will be allowed for establishment.

Management: These areas will be intensely managed to protect and maintain quality corridor/transition zone habitat. Depending on the species established, they will require wildlife management techniques that disturb plant succession (light strip disking, prescribed burning, and/or spot spraying) to be applied on between 1/3 to 1/2 of herbaceous vegetation sections and certain types of shrubs between October and March of the second and third years. For best results, the management should be done on a staggered basis (e.g., applied to a different area each year). Shrub lespedeza will need to be burned or mowed and burned every 3 to 5 years in late winter to keep it a desirable size to benefit wildlife. After the establishment period these areas cannot be disked, burned, or treated with herbicides during the nesting period from April 1 to August 15.

Name: _____

Job Sheet EHM31 – Establish, manage and maintain transition zones around cropland, pastureland and/or hayland such as habitat corridors and field borders for wildlife that are a minimum of 30 feet wide.

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Maintenance:

- Livestock exclusion is required. Hardwood trees and shrubs will be protected from wildfire.
- Replant as necessary to maintain a continuous hedge. The value of older established hedgerows can be improved for wildlife by interplanting open areas within hedgerows or renovating one-third of the length of the hedgerow at a time, using species that provide wildlife food and cover. When renovation of the hedgerow is needed, use fire, herbicides, or mechanical means to set back vegetation to an earlier stage of succession. To preserve wildlife habitat, renovate only one-third of the length of the hedgerow at a time, allowing re-growth before proceeding to the next section.
- Herbaceous sections of corridors/transition zones may not be used as equipment turn rows or travel lanes. These areas cannot be used as storage areas for equipment, chemicals or harvested crops (ex. hay or cotton modules).

Documentation Required: Use this or similar table to document corridor/transition zone areas, plant species composition and the application of management activities applied to these areas. Attach a plan map showing the location of the corridors and/or transition zones. An example is provided to assist you.

Tract & Field #s	Corridors/ Transition Zone Acres	List Existing or Planned Plant Species Composition	Management Activities Applied
T486 - 1	15	Wild Plum/Shrub Lespedeza	Protect Plums with firebreak rings; Prescribe burn Lespedeza

Establishment/Management/Maintenance of Corridors/Transition Zones for Wildlife Certification

I certify that the designated areas listed in the table above are maintained to meet minimum plant species requirements and the selected management activities as explained in the enhancement narrative have been applied.

Name: _____ Date: _____

HABITAT MANAGEMENT (CSP Enhancements)

February 2006

Enhancement Activity Job Sheets

MS-CSP-EHM60-JS

Name: _____

Job Sheet EHM60 – Annually leave a minimum of 1/4 acre to a maximum of 5% per field of grain crop unharvested until March 1st of the following year for wildlife food.

Payment = \$100.00/acre/year for each field area left unharvested. Payment applies only to the eligible unharvested area(s).

The intent of this enhancement is to provide winter food and cover for a wide array of wildlife species (songbirds, gamebirds, big game, small mammals, and furbearers) by annually leaving a minimum of ¼ acre to a maximum of 5% per field of grain crop unharvested. Winter food and cover sources are essential for all wildlife species. Many of the traditional grain crops, such as corn and milo, are high energy foods. These mimic the food value of some of the more traditional wildlife foods, such as acorns.

Eligible fields must be a minimum of 5 acres in size. The unharvested area must be part of a cropland field used for commercial grain production. (It does not include individual food plots located within established wildlife habitat.) A **contiguous** ¼ acre plot of unharvested grain is the minimum size area eligible for payment per field. The grain crop will be left unharvested through the winter until March 1st of the following year. The unharvested area must also be located within 100 feet of woody cover (treeline, hedgerow, or woodland) **or** within 100 feet of a native herbaceous border (minimum of 30 foot wide) with at least 12 inches of winter height.

Documentation Required: Use this or similar table to document this practice. Attach a plan map showing the location of the unharvested acres.

Tract & Field #s	Area to be left unharvested	Total Acres per Field	Year
1 and 3	8 acres in each of fields 1 and 3	Field 1 – 180 ac. Field 3 – 190 ac.	2006
2	1/4 acre	6 acres	2006

Unharvested Grain Crops Certification

I certify that I have left the above listed acres of grain crops unharvested until March 1st of the year following the year the crop was planted.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____

Job Sheet EHM – Wildlife Biodiversity Index

Payment as follows:

\$2.00 / Acre / Year for a habitat index value of 0.51 to 0.59

\$4.00 / Acre / Year for a habitat index value of 0.60 to 0.69

\$6.00 / Acre / Year for a habitat index value of 0.70 to 0.79

\$8.00 / Acre / Year for a habitat index value of 0.80 to 0.89

\$10.00 / Acre / Year for a habitat index value of 0.90 to 1.0

Payment applies only to the field(s) that receives an eligible habitat index value.

The habitat evaluation tool, Mississippi Wildlife Biodiversity Index (BDI), will be used to determine the habitat index values for both benchmark and final conditions.

Biologists or trained field office personnel are to complete the assessments **in the field** to arrive at the index values.

To raise the Wildlife Biodiversity Index score the habitat must be improved and/or the management of the habitat must be improved. Practices should be documented in a wildlife conservation plan or as modifications to an existing farm conservation plan. **NRCS will help you assess the habitat needs and must approve the selected practices/plan prior to payment.**

Documentation Required: Attached copy of completed benchmark and final Mississippi Wildlife Biodiversity Indexes (BDI).